

Commander's Call Topics



April 2, 2010

"Coupled with our daily professional endeavors, academic development sharpens our edge and bolsters our ability as an Air Force and joint team. Therefore, professional reading, in equal measure to physical training, continues to be vital to maintaining our initiative today and our preparation for the future."

– Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz on the release of the [2010 CSAF Reading List](#)

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

Top enlisted leader addresses issues facing Airmen

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy discussed key issues with Airmen during a recent visit to Eglin AFB, Fla. These include the role battlefield Airmen play in deployed operations, appropriate combat training, physical fitness, the importance of family and managing the force.

► CURRENT ISSUES

President Obama pays surprise visit to troops in Afghanistan

President Barack Obama paid a visit to troops in Afghanistan March 28, delivering a message of praise to American servicemembers on behalf of the United States.

Social media sites soon will be open on the Air Force Network

Air Force personnel will be allowed to access Internet-based social media sites via the Air Force network for official use and limited personal use. All Airmen must use due diligence when posting information online and must always follow Joint Ethics regulations, operations security and published rules of engagement. Initial access will be available at five Pacific Air Forces bases, and sites Air Force-wide will be opened later in April.

Pentagon officials may extend tanker bid deadline

Defense Department officials informed companies interested in bidding on the KC-X aerial refueling tanker contract that if the European Aeronautics Defense and Space Company formally expresses an intention to compete, the bidding deadline would be extended 60 days.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

Air Force leaders expand force management options

Force management measures have been expanded to bring the service closer to its authorized funded end strength. The expanded measures impact Airmen across the continuum of service. It includes reduced officer and enlisted accessions, broadened waiver opportunities for some voluntary separation and retirement options, and involuntary separation and retirement programs. For details, visit the AFPC personnel services [Web site](#) or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

Eligible officers may apply for VSP April 1

Officers in nine Air Force specialties across five year groups who are being considered to meet the 2010 Reduction in Force Board convening Sept. 20 are eligible to apply for voluntary separation pay April 1. For more information on eligibility, benefits and application procedures, visit the AFPC personnel services [Web site](#) or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

CIVILIAN

[Air Force officials extend deadline for civilian developmental education program](#)

Civilians interested in competing for developmental education opportunities in 2010 now have until April 26 to submit a hard copy application to the Air Force Personnel Center. For more information, visit AFPC's personnel services [Web site](#) or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Military families get free access to caregiver network](#)

[Sittercity](#) is the nation's largest online source for local babysitters, nannies, elder care providers, dog walkers, housekeepers and tutors. The company offers military families -- including active duty, Guard and Reserve -- a paid membership to the site. This membership enables military families entry to a custom-built Defense Department Web site portal where they can match up caregivers to their situation; gain instant access to caregiver profiles that include background checks, references and reviews; and find military-certified care providers as well as caregivers who are military-subsidized and authorized access to a military installation.

[New DVD helps children deal with deployment](#)

"With You All the Way" offers school-age children help with preparing for and dealing with all stages of deployment, from pre-deployment to separation to reintegration. The free DVD is slated to be distributed through USO centers and [Military OneSource](#) in May as part of a children's deployment kit that also contains a stuffed bear called Cuzzie, postcards, a journal and a set of dog tags inscribed "With You All the Way."

[Operation Purple reconnects children, parents after deployments](#)

The mission of the Operation Purple program is to empower military children and their families to develop and maintain healthy and connected relationships. Sponsored by the National Military Family Association, Operation Purple includes summer camps, leadership camps for teens, family retreats, and camps geared to address the needs of children and families of wounded servicemembers. For more information, visit www.militaryfamily.org.

[FitFamily program promotes healthy lifestyles](#)

Air Force officials launched FitFamily to encourage and reward children and adults for leading an active lifestyle. The program is designed to increase fitness levels and supplements the Air Force's youth fitness program, FitFactor. Families can enroll in the program by logging on to <http://www.USAFFitFamily.com>. Participants will receive fitness tips, learn about nutrition, and have access to a list of activities and tracking tools for goals.

RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

Air Force Community

<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>

Air Force Highlights

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/usafhighlights/index.asp>

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

Military HOMEFRONT

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

Year of the Air Force Family
<http://www.af.mil/yoaff/index.asp>
www.MyAirForceLife.com

Air Force Personnel Center
<http://gum.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>
<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

Air Reserve Personnel Center
<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

Department of Defense
<http://www.defense.gov>

Department of Defense News
<http://www.defenselink.mil>

TRICARE
<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Web site
<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

April is the [Month of the Military Child](#) and [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#).

[Latest 'Portraits in Courage' released](#)

The stories of heroism, valor, sacrifice and bravery of 17 Airmen appear in the fourth edition of the Air Force's [Portraits in Courage](#).

This Week in Air Force History

April 3, 1967 – Chief Master Sgt. Paul W. Airey became the first chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

April 6, 1924 – Four specially built Douglas World Cruisers -- each with a crew of two men -- set off for the first flight around the world.

April 6, 1949 – The X-1 rocket plane flew at 1,000 mph, an unofficial world-record speed for piloted planes.

April 6, 1959 – NASA announced that seven pilots from the U.S. armed services are chosen for the Mercury astronaut program. Airmen selected are Capts. L. Gordon Cooper Jr., Virgil I. Grissom and Donald K. Slayton.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit the Air Force Link heritage section at <http://www.af.mil/information/heritage>.

The Defense Media Activity-San Antonio produces Commander's Call Topics weekly. For questions or comments about this or any other DMA-SA product, send e-mail to afproducts@dma.mil. To subscribe to Air Force news and information products online, go to www.af.mil/information/subscribe.